HACKERS DEMAND IGGY'S APOLOGY

RAPPER HIT WITH NUDE PHOTO THREAT. PAGE 15

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Solidarity

Marching. More than 400 people flocked to Mayfair on Friday to show their support for the police. PAGE 02

Stacy Birney supports her police officer father at the pro-police rally. / MARIA POUCHNIKOVA, METRO

New clue discovered in missing student case

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2 'Northwest Raiders use Philadelphia grit to win Pop Warner Super Bowl'

3 'Study shows subway air samples include human skin'

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On the go

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Mary and Phil Heavy carry a flag to the pro-police rally; to the right, Cherie Savoy and George Nea hold signs. / MARIA POUCHNIKOVA, METRO

Pro-police rally draws hundreds to Mayfair

Solidarity. Police supporters responded to a Facebook post.

Don Garvey thought maybe 10 to 15 of his friends and family might show up for a rally he staged to show support for Philadelphia police officers.

The event succeeded beyond his wildest dreams, as some 400 mostly Northeast residents braved cold winter weather and flocked to a small square in the Mayfair neighborhood on Friday night. They held signs, shouted to passing motorists who honked in response and voiced their support for police officers.

Mothers brought babies in strollers and one man held a large American flag. A sign on one of the strollers read: "I support the police. They protect me." About 20 uniformed officers stood on the fringe of the crowd and watched over the rally.

Garvey, 33, a heating and air conditioning worker from Mayfair, organized the rally as part of a national police respect day. Asked whether the larger-than-expected turnout was a reaction to the protests following grand juries clearing police in the deaths of black men in Ferguson, Missouri, and on Staten Island, New York, he said, "It might be."

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about the ongoing protests.

Garvey added: "Some kids are growing up today looking over their shoulder at the cops thinking, 'Is something bad going to happen?' I think that has a lot to do with the national media."

Garvey said the Mayfair rally had "nothing to do" with the fact that a Philadelphia man, Brandon Tate Brown, 26, was shot and killed by police about four blocks from the event.

Garvey said he first put up a Facebook page announcing the rally last Tuesday, the day after the Tate Brown shooting.

Brian Tait, 41, a school teacher from Mayfair, suggested in his remarks to the crowd that people are overall frustrated by their relationship with city government.

"We pay our taxes," he told the gathering, "And we get treated like crap."

Tait added: "I don't see a councilman here," he said. "We've had enough.

"It's bad enough to put up with what we have to put up with, but we draw the line at criticizing our police officers," he said.

Quote

"Kids are growing up looking over their shoulder at the cops thinking, 'Is something bad going to happen?'"
Garvey

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Anti-police. Rash of graffiti found in West Philadelphia

Graffiti on Baltimore Avenue reads: "F— the police."
CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Police are looking for those responsible for two messages targeting Philadelphia police officers spray-painted on property in West Philadelphia.

According to Officer Christine O'Brien, a police spokeswoman, the tagging at 4800 Baltimore Avenue and at 4900 Catherine Avenue both occurred early Friday in Cedar Park.

At the Baltimore Avenue residence, "Cop Lives Don't Matter" was spray-painted on the fence surrounding a private lot, O'Brien said, which plays off the demonstrator's "Black Lives Matter" chant.

On Catherine Street, "PPD Killed Brandon Tate Brown," was spray-painted on the side of the Third World Lounge, which refers to the death of Brown, who was shot and killed by police during a traffic stop in Mayfair on Monday.

NBC10 reported that a third message, "F— the Cops," was painted on the side of an abandoned church not far from the other two locations.

The "Cop Lives Don't Matter" tag was painted over. TOMMY ROWAN

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McGeehan's Bar. / METRO

Lovers' spat ends with one man shot, two arrests

Armed. Two men terrorized bar patrons.

What began as a lovers' quarrel early Sunday morning escalated into an armed standoff with police that left one man with a gunshot wound.

At around 12:03 a.m. Sunday, a 27-year-old woman walked into McGeehan's Bar, on the 4400 block of Cottman Avenue, and ordered a drink, police said.

About 10 minutes later, her 21-year-old boyfriend walked into the bar and attempted to convince his girlfriend to leave. When she refused he started yelling and cursing, police said.

According to police, bar staff asked the man to leave, but he returned minutes later armed and fired several shots through the bar's windows, striking a 23-year-old man in the left arm. Another round shattered a mirror in which a bartender was standing close by, police said.

After police arrived and started conducting an investigation, a 55-year-old man arrived — police said he received a call about the earlier shooting — and exited his car with a loaded handgun. Police said one round discharged in the general area where police and witnesses were standing.

Dangerous

The second gunman had two handguns, but his permit to carry a firearm was expired.
Philadelphia police

The man was ordered to drop the gun, he refused. Police subdued and arrested the gunman. Police said his permit to carry a firearm was expired.

TOMMY ROWAN
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New clue. Shane Montgomery's keys found in Schuylkill River

A new development in the Shane Montgomery case was announced Sunday.

According to NBC10, the Garden State Underwater Recovery Unit found Montgomery's keys after a more-than four-hour search of the Schuylkill River.

While no more evidence was found in the river, the finding is the latest breakthrough in the case since a security camera from a Main Street nail salon picked up footage of Montgomery walking toward the towpath behind the store the morning of his disappearance. The camera did not pick up anything further.

The search for the missing 21-year-old West Chester student has dragged on for more than three weeks since he first vanished into the early Thanksgiving morning.

METRO

Shane Montgomery
FILE PHOTO

Nextdoor to connect Philly officials with neighborhoods

Social. The app is designed to let neighbors have private discussions.

Sarah Leary co-founded Nextdoor. / SAM NEWHOUSE

Philadelphia announced last week that multiple city departments will start sharing information with citizens through the Nextdoor social network website and app.

"People want to be able to touch their representatives and city officials. They want to be able to get feedback," said Anthony Murphy, executive director of the city's Town Watch Integrated Services department, which is partnering with Nextdoor. "This is a way to target the people you want to talk to."

Nextdoor lets users create neighborhood-specific social network sites. To join a neighborhood, you must verify your address. The site isn't visible publicly or on Google, just to users signed up for the same neighborhood.

"Neighbors really appreciate that Nextdoor is private. You have to verify your address. You use your real name," said Sarah Leary, co-founder of Nextdoor. "It creates a trusted environment where they feel comfortable talking about the issues that matter."

Now, city agencies, including the Office of Emergency Management, the Streets Department, the Department of Licenses and Inspections and Town Watch Integrated Services, will be able to access those networks to share information with the public and get tips from citizens — a change that was popularly requested, Leary said.

Philly isn't the first city to partner with Nextdoor. New York City, Dallas and San Diego also share information with citizens through the app. But Philly is the largest city to bring so many departments on board with the information exchange, Leary said.

"It allows citizens to stimulate some kind of conversation," Leary said.

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Metro brings the magic to local kids

Gavin White, 3, picked out a toy Saturday from a box of gifts donated by Tony's Metro Magic toy drive. The drive benefits the Institute for the Development of African-American Youth, a youth development organization based in North Philadelphia. Toys and gifts were donated from faithful Metro readers. Thank you for your generosity. Neil Ray, IDAAY's interim executive director, said in a news release: "We here at IDAAY, Inc would like to send a special thanks out to Metro Newspaper, City Paper, Toys for Tots and all other contributors and donors for helping us to make this event possible." / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Chasing away the holiday blues

Traditions. Fighting loneliness is the top priority.

Don't sit home alone for the holidays. Make new traditions. / REUTERS

The year's end may bring holiday cheer for many, but it can cause sadness and unhealthy behavior in others.

"People tend to picture the holidays as being perfect, like a Norman Rockwell painting," says Dr. Stephen Geisler, a psychiatrist at Zucker Hillside Hospital in Queens. The problem comes when people expect reality to reach that ideal.

One common holiday-related problem is loneliness. "It's usually a time of year that emphasizes family," says Dr. Michael Henry, a psychiatrist based at Massachusetts General Hospital. "There are some people estranged from their families, or who have lost family members or given current economic circumstances, they are unable to travel to see their families."

There are ways to feel less alone.

"The challenge is to create new traditions," Geisler advises. "If your family is out of town, make plans to spend the holidays with friends, or go to a soup kitchen and volunteer."

Economic concerns can also contribute to feeling low, causing people to beat themselves up for not being able to afford the perfect gift." People tell themselves, 'If I were better, I'd be able to afford this,'" said Henry.

Other seasonal problems include excessive eating and alcohol abuse, something to keep in mind as you make plans for New Year's Eve.

The approach of a new year can also cause people to reflect on the failures of the previous 12 months.

"The problem people have with New Year's is often they did not keep their resolutions," Geisler said. "They did not lose that 20 pounds."

Make realistic resolutions involving reachable goals, said Geisler. He also encourages people to pace themselves. "You can't do it all," said Geisler.

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Debunked

Suicide myth

It's a myth that the suicide rate goes up during the holiday season.

Since 1999, the Annenberg Center at the University of Pennsylvania has issued a study on newspaper stories perpetuating the myth. They say that during the 2013 holiday season, 70 percent of the stories incorrectly stated that suicide rates rose at the end of the year. In truth, the period between November and January usually has one of the lowest suicide rates of the year, according to the CDC.

The months between April and August tend to have the highest suicide rates.

Quote

"The challenge is to create new traditions. ... Volunteer at a soup kitchen."
Geisler

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Police in New York City try to learn what drove cop killer

Investigation. No apparent motive for a man's act that cost two officers their lives.

Police officers salute as vehicles pass carrying the bodies of two slain officers. / REUTERS

Police on Sunday were trying to learn what drove an out-of-town man to shoot his ex-girlfriend near Baltimore, then take a bus to New York and kill two policemen at point-blank range later that day.

So far, they have no concrete motive, but have poured over Ismaaiyl Brinsley's social media accounts, including Facebook, Instagram postings, his Gmail account and two telephones, one stolen from his ex-girlfriend.

Brinsley, 28, had at least 19 prior arrests in Georgia and Ohio. Police say Brinsley stopped two people on the street moments before he shot Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu.

Robert Boyce, chief of detectives, told reporters that Brinsley asked the passersby for their gang affiliations, asked them to follow him on Instagram and then said, "Watch what I'm going to do."

After leaving Baltimore on a Bolt Bus for Manhattan, Brinsley called the ex-girlfriend's mother to say he had shot her daughter by accident and hoped she'd recover.

Along the way he posted a message to a social media account that read: "I'm putting wings on pigs today. They take 1 of ours … let's take 2 of theirs."

He ditched the girlfriend's phone near the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, where Baltimore police were able to locate it.

They notified the NYPD at about 2:45 p.m., Boyce said. A minute later Brinsley circled behind the parked patrol car and shot Officers Ramos and Liu dead.

The gun was bought nearly 20 years ago in Georgia by someone using the ID of a man who would have been a 9-year-old child when it was purchased.

Detectives interviewed Brinsley's family members in Brooklyn. His mother said she had not spoken with her son in a month, and described a violent childhood to police.

While Brinsley grew up in a Muslim household, "We're told by family that he's never expressed any radicalization at all," and that the mother feared him, Boyce said.

Brinsley tried to hang himself last year, Boyce said, offering no explanation.

Quote

"What we are seeing right now is anger against the government."
Boyce

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Obama says Sony hack was not an act of war

President. Obama put the hack in the context of a crime.

President Barack Obama moved to prevent anger at North Korea from spiraling out of control on Sunday by saying the massive hacking of Sony Pictures was not an act of war but instead was cybervandalism.

Washington's long-standing dispute with North Korea, which for years has centered on its nuclear weapons program, has entered new territory with the accusation that Pyongyang carried out an assault on a Hollywood entertainment company.

Obama and his advisers are weighing how to punish North Korea after the FBI concluded on Friday that Pyongyang was responsible. North Korea has denied it was to blame.

"No, I don't think it was an act of war," he told CNN's "State of the Union" show that aired on Sunday. "I think it was an act of cybervandalism that was very costly, very expensive. We take it very seriously. We will respond proportionately."

Obama said one option was to return North Korea to the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, from which Pyongyang was removed six years ago.

North Korea vowed on Sunday to hit back against any U.S. retaliation.

"Our toughest counteraction will be boldly taken against the White House, the Pentagon and the whole U.S. mainland, the cesspool of terrorism, by far surpassing the 'symmetric counteraction' declared by Obama," according to North Korea state news agency KCNA. REUTERS

North Korea said it was not involved in the Sony attack and could prove it. Pyongyang said it wanted a joint investigation into the incident with the United States. / REUTERS

Hack sanctions

Lawmaker calls for strong US response

The U.S. House Intelligence Committee chairman on Sunday called for a "very serious" reaction, including sanctions, to a North Korean cyberattack on Sony Pictures, saying it was not enough for the United States to restrict that country's cyber capability.

Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MIchigan) criticized President Barack Obama on "Fox News Sunday" for getting on a plane to Hawaii on Friday and not acting immediately against North Korea.

"The problem here was not that the fact that we didn't have the capability to do something nearly in immediate time. We just didn't get a decision from the president," Rogers said. REUTERS

NSC spokesman

US stands by assertion that N. Korea behind Sony attack

The United States stands by its assertion that the North Korean government was behind the massive cyberattack, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council said on Saturday.

Asked about North Korea's statement on Saturday denying involvement in the strike against the Hollywood studio, NSC spokesman Mark Stroh said: "As the FBI made clear, we are confident the North Korean government is responsible for this destructive attack. We stand by this conclusion." REUTERS

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CNN interview

Obama vows to 'do everything I can' to close Guantanamo

President Barack Obama said in a TV interview set for broadcast on Sunday that he will do "everything I can" to close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, after four Afghan detainees held there were sent home.

Obama promised to shut the internationally condemned prison when he took office nearly six years ago, saying it was damaging America's image around the world. But he has been unable to do so, partly because of obstacles posed by Congress.

"I'm going to be doing everything I can to close it," Obama said on CNN's "State of the Union with Candy Crowley," program in an interview taped on Friday.

"It is contrary to our values and it is wildly expensive. We're spending millions for each individual there. And we have drawn down the popultion there significantly," he added.

In the latest step in the gradual push to close the prison, four Afghans held for over a decade at Guantanamo have been sent home, the Pentagon said on Saturday. REUTERS

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It is something that continues to inspire jihadists and extremists around the world, the fact that these folks are being held." Obama

Cuba's famed cigars get a foot in door of US market

New Cuba policy. The cigar was among the first forbidden Cuban products legalized.

Cuban cigars for sale are on display at a hotel in Havana. / REUTERS

Milagros Diaz has been rolling cigars for 48 years, so long she cannot even smell tobacco anymore, and she is thrilled that the U.S. market is finally opening up for her handmade Cuban "habanos."

Since President Obama announced on Wednesday he would restore diplomatic ties with Cuba and start dismantling economic sanctions, Americans have been filing into the cigar shop at the Hotel Nacional in Havana, where she hand-rolls cigars using techniques little changed since the 19th century.

"The Americans!" she said, her face lighting up as she clapped her hands over her head. "They're not scared anymore. I'm super happy because in my 67 years I never thought I would see diplomatic relations. And we think we're going to sell more, because this is just getting started."

Cigars have been Cuba's signature product ever since Christopher Columbus saw natives smoking rolled up tobacco leaves when he first sailed to the Caribbean island in 1492.

Fidel Castro, who took power in Cuba's 1959 revolution, was often seen puffing on his favored, long and thin lancero model until he quit in 1985.

Cuban cigars are considered by many as the best in the world — brands such as Cohiba, Montecristo and Partagas — but the U.S. trade embargo blocks their access to a market that last year imported 317.6 million premium, hand-rolled cigars.

The restrictions could be further loosened over time. Wholesale shipments directly to the United States would require Congress to lift the embargo, or for Obama to declare an exception for cigars under the Trading with the Enemy Act. REUTERS

New rules

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Under new rules to be implemented soon, the United States will make it easier for some Americans to travel to Cuba and they will be able to return with $100 worth of alcohol and tobacco.

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Execution campaign widens. Four militants hanged in Pakistan

Pakistan hanged four Islamist militants on Sunday in the second set of executions since the government lifted a moratorium after the Taliban massacred 132 children and nine others at a school last week.

None of those hanged has anything to do with Tuesday's school rampage in Peshawar, and some Pakistani commentators have said the executions are intended to divert attention from the failure to satisfy public demands to find the killers.

Four prisoners were executed at the tightly guarded Faisalabad jail for their role in attacking former Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf, a senior government official said. Two others had been hanged at the same jail on Friday.

A source in the local Punjab government identified the four as Rasheed Qureshi, Zubair Ahmad, Ghulam Sarwar and Akhlaque Ahmed, also known as Russi, who he said was Russian. REUTERS

Tensions are high

Official sources said more convicts would be executed.

- The Taliban have issued statements promising to stage more attacks around Pakistan in retaliation for the executions of any of their fighters.
- Security has been tightened around major prisons, reflecting fears that the militants, who are fighting to topple the government and set up a state governed by Islamic law, might try to attack jails and free inmates.

Iraqi Kurds, Yazidis fight ISIS for strategic Sinjar

American help. The U.S. military said it also carried out four airstrikes around Sinjar.

Members of Kurdish security forces ride in a vehicle at Mount Sinjar, in the town of Sinjar. / REUTERS

Kurdish and Yazidi fighters battled to take the strategic northern Iraqi town of Sinjar back from Islamic State on Sunday after breaking a months-long siege of the mountain above it.

Seizing the town would restore the majority of territory Iraq's Kurds lost in the jihadist group's surprise August offensive.

It would also give a huge strategic victory to both the Iraqi Kurds and the central government in Baghdad, as the Kurdish fighters could then cut the highway from Syria to Mosul, a vital supply line for ISIS.

Backed by U.S. warplanes, Iraqi Kurdish and Yazidi fighters, also joined by Kurdish guerrillas from Syria and Turkey, pushed into Sinjar from the western border post of Rabia and from Sinjar Mountain to the north, to which Iraqi Kurdish fighters opened a corridor on Thursday.

The Iraqi Kurdish region's president, Masoud Barzani, visited Sinjar Mountain and vowed that all of the town of Sinjar would be retaken.

"Most of Sinjar is under our control now. With the help of God we will free all of it. The help of the coalition forces was noteworthy and their support was very effective," Barzani said.

Wounded Iraqi Kurdish fighters were raced by vehicle to the mountain summit for treatment. Planes and helicopters rumbled overhead, while from time to time the boom of an airstrike reverberated.

Returning from the town of Sinjar late on Saturday, Yazidi fighter Qassem Sheshou, head of the Sinjar Protection Forces, said the area was heavily mined, but bragged that the militants had not put up much of a fight. "They fled like rats," he said.

Fahd Hamid, a Yazidi fighter from Sinjar, said there were 1,700 Yazidi families on the mountain. REUTERS

Quoted

"Our faith in God and this mountain was strong." Hamid

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Hackers demand Iggy Azalea apologize to Azealia Banks

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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We're apparently officially in the age of hacker demands, as those lovable upstarts in Anonymous — the ones with the Guy Fawkes masks and all — have jumped into Iggy Azalea's feud with Azealia Banks, demanding that Azalea make a big public apology to Banks and the #ICantBreathe protestors or suffer the consequences. Just what consequences, you might ask? The group claims to have a sex tape featuring the singer and are threatening to release stills from it if she does not comply. Way to raise the stakes, guys.

They went on to threaten, "We have so much s— on you, your scandal would be bigger than Bill Cosby's," which seems kind of impossible just purely on a fame level. Unless there's millions of people out there who think of Azalea as a paragon of wholesomeness and morality that I don't know about. Last week, Azalea launched a new volley in her ongoing feud with Banks, calling her "a bigot" and "a miserable, angry human being" on Twitter. Fun times we live in these days.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lance Bass totally upstaged by Elton John

So! Former *NSYNC member Lance Bass got hitched this weekend, marrying Michael Turchin at a lovely ceremony in Los Angeles attended by every member of his boy band except Justin Timberlake. It was a very big to-do, so Bass must be pretty peeved that, across the pond, Elton John had his own wedding the very next day, marrying longtime partner David Furnish. The couple did the whole civil union thing back in 2005, but now that full gay marriage is legal in the U.K., they decided to make it extra official. "We'll do it very quietly," he told Matt Lauer earlier this year of the wedding plans. Not quietly enough for Bass, though. Heck, John even created an Instagram account just to make a big deal out of the wedding. But maybe that's how he does quiet.

Elton John is seen here stealing Lance Bass's thunder.

INSTAGRAM, ELTONJOHN

James Corden doesn't think grownups should care about 'The Avengers'

"Into the Woods" star James Corden is one busy man. While he already has a thriving film, television and theater career — and a young family at home — he's also taking over for Craig Ferguson at "The Late Late Show" next year. So he obviously doesn't have time consider a role in one of Marvel's big superhero movies. Which is fine, since he wouldn't want one anyway. "I don't think I'm talking myself out of a big Marvel franchise, I don't think it's coming anytime round the corner, but I do find that whole notion of it odd," he tells us. "I just think, how much of your day are you acting? How much are you getting to act? Like, really, genuinely? If you're an actor and you're in those movies, what is your day's acting? I find it strange."

Also, for any grownup fans of Marvel movies, Corden thinks you need to grow up. "I spend almost no time thinking about 'The Avengers.' I literally could not spend less of my day thinking about it, and I'm constantly amazed by the volume of adults who do," he says. "Each to their own, and I wish them well, but I mean, it's preposterous."

Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard welcome oddly named baby No. 2

Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard named their first daughter, Lincoln, after Shepard's favorite car, so now that their second daughter has arrived we all have a pretty good idea what Bell's favorite airline is. Or maybe they're just big "Designing Women" fans? The happy couple welcomed daughter Delta Bell Shepard to the world last week. Bell announced the news via Twitter along with a warning to her husband about her estrogen levels and a photo of a gorilla holding a baby gorilla's hand. We also would've accepted a photo of a sloth. The couple's first daughter was born in 2013, and they were married the same year shortly after California's Proposition 8, banning same-sex marriage, was struck down.

David Schwimmer returns to TV to play a Kardashian

Would you believe that "Friends" star David Schwimmer hasn't had a TV project since the hit sitcom ended 10 years ago? I mean, sure he's done guest spots on "30 Rock" and Lisa Kudrow's "Web Therapy," but a regular gig? Nope. So what could lure Schwimmer, who's been sticking to film as an actor and a director, back to TV now? Apparently the chance to play Kim Kardashian's dad. Schwimmer has signed on to play Robert Kardashian in "American Horror Story" and "Glee" guru Ryan Murphy's miniseries about the O.J. Simpson murder trial, with the very original name of "American Crime Story." So welcome back, Dave? I guess?

Daily video

Which member of One Direction can't do an American accent?

YOUTUBE, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

One Direction hit up "Saturday Night Live" as the musical guests, but being good sports that they are the boys also stepped in for a sketch, dropping by an episode of "Girlfriends Talk Show" as the male members of a high school dance squad, adorable track suits and all. And we learned something about the five guys, acting chopswise. Harry Styles is apparently incapable of doing an American accent — or taking off that ridiculous hat he's grown so attached to — while the other four can at manage a thick Brooklyn dock worker impression. And who knew Niall Horan had so much low end in his voice?

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Whitney Cummings is feeling a bit desperate, Bob Saget is a romantic, Kirstie Alley has some big holiday plans, Bryan Singer is opening himself up to some pretty terrible jokes and Conan O'Brien is trying to be jolly.

@WhitneyCummings: I refuse to let my self worth be dictated by the number of retweets I get please RT

@bobsaget: Falling in love during the holidays would be perfect if not for the rug burn.

@kirstiealley: I'm going to Italy to write a screenplay ... And to have sex with the occasional gondolier

@BryanSinger: Learned baby CPR today

@ConanOBrien: I'm pretty sure I saw this department store Santa in an old episode of "Dateline."

2014's worst fashion moments

Sure, us regular people have bad fashion days. But we expect stars, who have access to the world's top designers, to nail it every time. Looking back over the past year, that's definitely not always the case — a few times we even wondered what certain celebs did to make their stylists hate them. Here are some of 2014's most questionable looks. **RACHEL VIGODA**

The copycats

Katy Perry & Riff Raff

There's nothing wrong with paying homage to the artists who have come before. But there's never an excuse for re-creating Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears' all-denim look at the 2001 American Music Awards, like Riff Raff and Katy Perry did at this year's MTV Video Music Awards.

Amber Rose

One person donning a few strings and pretending they make a dress is one too many. At the VMAs, Amber Rose should have let Rose McGowan keep her spot in history as Most Naked at a Music Awards Show.

The costume

Kate Upton

Kate Upton usually opts for outfits that are fairly simple, designed to not overshadow her ample assets — nothing to write home about, but nothing to cringe at either. That's why we were surprised she went to the Met Gala dressed as Carmen Miranda heading to a sexy funeral.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Up top

Hats off

No, really. Take these hats off — or at least turn it around, Biebs.

The repeat offenders

Kim Kardashian

Where to start with Kim K? While we love that she celebrates her curves, wearing everything two sizes too small is not a good look, as this shot from ACRIA's Holiday Dinner Benefit shows.

Lena Dunham

Lena Dunham's memoir wasn't the only thing making tongues wag in 2014. Her secretary-meets-Big Bird outfit at the Emmys was a certified fashion don't. And that wasn't the first time Dunham channeled the "Sesame Street" character. Remember that neon yellow dress at the Golden Globes?

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Hip-hop Hanukkah

Music. A disco ball dreidel is just one reason to catch Matisyahu's new tour.

Don't expect any Hanukkah remixes at Matisyahu's annual Festival of Light tour.

"I don't know where that came from," says the Jewish reggae artist. "I don't even know what a classic Hanukkah song is and we certainly don't perform any. I have a couple of Hanukkah songs I've written that we perform."

Now in its eight year, the artist says the tour is a combination of songs from his new record and older ones such as "One Day" and "Youth."

"We do have a huge disco ball dreidel, which is amazing," he adds.

Matisyahu, born Matthew Paul Miller, and his backing band, the Dub Trio, released a fourth studio album, "Akeda," in June. It's full of the rhythmic reggae, hip-hop and electronic permutations that the Pennsylvania-born, New York-raised 35-year-old is known for, but with some rock flavor.

Matisyahu also tries to light a menorah in the venues that don't have an ordinance against pyrotechnics. / JARED POLIN

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Tours

On the road

Veteran touring artist Matisyahu doesn't need long to pack for a trip: "I underpack. I take exactly what I need," he says. "I travel with a small backpack, even when I'm leaving for months. Essential items are headphones and some kind of book I'm into. Most times I don't even take my computer with me, just my phone. Then I look at where I'm going — the Northeast, for this tour. I'll need one warm coat and a pair of warm pants that I can wear every day. Then one pair of really comfortable pants to wear onstage every night. I always need comfortable clothes."

"The new album is more eclectic," Matisyahu says. "One of the things I'm good at is blending things together and having it make sense. The people I make music with, we work outside genre. We try to create our own unique sound."

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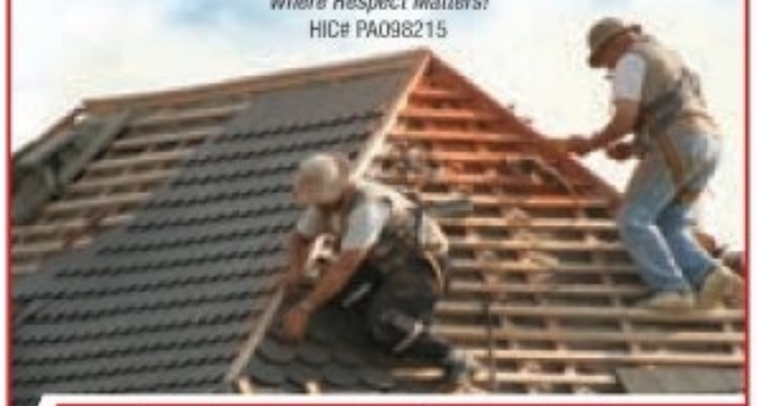

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Brie Larson keeps it real

BRIE LARSON
GETTY IMAGES

Interview. The "Short Term 12" star made sure her next big film — "The Gambler" — was one of the good ones.

Actresses who get their breakthroughs with indies tend to follow a well-trod path to big Hollywood fare. For Brie Larson, star of last year's "Short Term 12," it's "The Gambler." The thing is, "The Gambler" is a most unlikely studio product — a remake of a dark '70s drama, starring James Caan as a self-destructive professor. Here, Wahlberg is the antihero and Larson his best student/love interest.

"All the money in the world doesn't matter to me if I'm doing projects that I don't connect with," she tells us. Her character here isn't just a type. "She's not the love interest; she's the place to go to."

In this day and age, the movie's rough edges and harsh sarcasm — courtesy of "The Departed" screenwriter William Monahan — stand out in Hollywood. "It's unusual to have such rich, character-driven material and yet also have the budget to fully explore it. I'm used to it being one or the other. I've never felt so satisfied being at work."

Though she "loved every second" of shooting "Short Term 12," it was frustrating at times. "We were trying to do a movie like 'The Gambler' in a third of the time, with a fraction of the budget," she says. "I was so broke that year, when I was doing 'Don Jon' and 'The Spectacular Now' and 'Short Term 12' — those movies pay, like, $800. You can't live off it. And you're working a crazy amount of hours and there's nothing you can do but trust your instincts."

Brie Larson plays a college student with a thing for her self-destructive professor (Mark Wahlberg) in "The Gambler." / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

The future

Getting better

Larson finds herself strangely positive about Hollywood, thanks to the success of actresses her age, like Jennifer Lawrence and her friend Shailene Woodley. "I feel like I'm part of this really interesting shift that's happening," she says. "There are so many smart, funny, interesting, dynamic, complicated women who are willing to be all that onscreen. Those scripts are more readily available. I'm not banging my head against the wall and saying, 'Gosh, there's nothing here.' There's so much. I'm surprised by how much good material is out there."

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Box office. 'The Hobbit' amasses itself another mountain of gold

The third and final entry in Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" — which finds noble dwarf Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) driven mad by his lust for gold — made a pretty penny this weekend, hoarding an estimated $56.2 million, plus another $34.4 million from its appearances last Wednesday and Thursday.

That figure will be added toward the booty amassed by "The Battle of the Five Armies"' predecessors, which each grossed about $1 billion. That's the kind of winnings one would store inside a mountain, to be protected by an angry but articulate dragon with the voice of Benedict Cumberbatch.

Though these films have been bewilderingly profitable, none have scored the accolades or the reviews of Jackson's original Middle-earth films. The final "Lord of the Rings" entry, "The Return of the King," even won the Oscar for Best Picture. But if mediocre (and sometimes hostile) reactions hurt Jackson's feelings, he can always take a long dip through his money, a la Scrooge McDuck.

In other, non-"Hobbit" news, the third (and also final) "Night at the Museum" wrestled up a modest $17.3 million. And the modernization of "Annie," with Quvenzhane Wallis and Jamie Foxx, underperformed with $16.3 million, which can perhaps be explained by the fact that the film found its way online as part of the big Sony hack. **MATT PRIGGE**

Richard Armitage's Thorin Oakenshield succumbs to gold fever in the final entry of "The Hobbit." / WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Top 5 earners

1. 'The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies' $56.2 million
2. 'Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb' $17.3 million
3. 'Annie' $16.3 million
4. 'Exodus: Gods and Kings' $8.1 million
5. 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1' $7.8 million

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Meeting the new Rockette

Dance. Becoming a Rockette is a dream come true for new member Shelby Finnie — who's just 19 years old.

Heading to New York City this holiday season? See the spectacle of lights, music and high kicks at Radio City Music Hall. / MSG ENTERTAINMENT

The day the Rockettes came to Charlotte, North Carolina, and performed "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," young Shelby Finnie was bewitched. "I just remember thinking, 'I want to be a part of that magic someday,'" she recalls.

Now, at age 19, her dream has come true. After an exhausting series of auditions in August, she received the phone call that very few get. "It was a dream of mine for so long," she gushes, "and when I finally set foot on that stage, it was a moment that I'll never forget."

But since the start of the holiday season, there's little breathing space for her to relish the moment. The "Radio City Christmas Spectacular" runs two to six shows per day, with the highlights including the resurrection and reimagining of the 1940 routine, "Rag Dolls," in which the Rockettes come to life as rag dolls in Santa's workshop, and "Snow," which displays the Rockettes' technological updates with GPS-enabled snowflakes that transform the theater into a winter wonderland.

It's a challenge for Finnie and the other 79 Rockettes, and it requires just as much strength of body as of spirit. "A lot of people don't know that what the Rockettes do is very athletic," she says. "We're athletes as well as artists." In fact, when Finnie tells people she's a Rockette, it's sometimes hard for them to believe she's even human. "People are in shock a little bit," she laughs, "because they don't think of a Rockette as being a normal person every day on the street. We're actually real people."

Another aspect of the show the audience doesn't see is that the precision the Rockettes demonstrate onstage in 1.5-hour installments also happens behind the curtain. "Once we go offstage, backstage life is just as choreographed, because every quick change, every step you take, has to be calculated in order for the show to run smoothly," Finnie says.

Perhaps the sweetest moment of any performance for Finnie is catching sight of a little girl in the front rows, which inevitably reminds her of the day she first saw the Rockettes. "It's a full-circle moment to think that I'm inspiring another little girl to become a professional dancer. It makes me so happy."

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Foods to fight the flu

Keep winter illnesses out of season with fitness and these immune-boosting foods. **ELODIE NOEL**

It's a month into winter, and if you're not already boosting your vitamin C intake and washing your hands (the boring advice still works!) it's beyond time to get on that. But those aren't the only ways to stimulate your immune system: Jumping on the treadmill can also help. According to the preliminary results from Flusurvey, an online flu study by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, doing vigorous exercise (think cardio or intense dancing) for at least 2.5 hours a week reduces your chances of catching a flu-like illness by 10 percent. (In other words, 100 cases per 1,000 people could be prevented.) Tack on these immune-boosting foods, and you've got a solid plan to keep the bugs at bay.

Oysters

Selenium and zinc, two essential minerals for disease-fighting cells, can be found in oysters (just go easy on the melted butter).

Grapefruit

Packed with flavonoids, a substance proven to support the immune system, grapefruits are a good source of vitamin C. Squeeze one in the morning or add a few wedges to a salad.

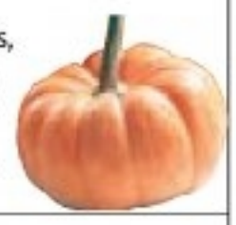
Cabbage

A good source of immune-strengthening glutamine, as well as antioxidants, cabbage is easy and inexpensive to find during the winter months.

It boosts the liver's ability to flush out toxins, which also goes for other cruciferous vegetables such as kale, collard greens, spinach and broccoli.

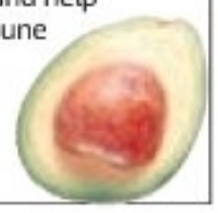
Vitamin A

Low vitamin A equals lower immunity. Luckily, the season's orange foods pack in plenty of it. Look for orange foods: sweet potatoes, carrots, squash, pumpkin, etc.



Avocado

Packed with essential amino acids, antioxidants and healthy fats to help balance hormone production, avocados also support adrenal function and help your immune system work at its peak.



PLUS *Garlic*

Apart from keeping sick people at an appropriate distance, two cloves of garlic a day covers your daily dose of allicin, which fights infection and bacteria. A British study found that people who included garlic in their diet were two-thirds less likely to catch a cold than those who took a placebo for 12 weeks.

Lifespan. Half of newborns will live to be 100

Some scientists say that the first person to live for 1,000 years is probably already alive. But the rest of us mere mortals aren't doing too badly either.

Between 1990 and 2013, average life expectancy rose from 65.3 years to 71.5 years, according to a new analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study. In the past 23 years, life expectancy increased by five years and eight months for men and six years and six months for women. "The progress we are seeing against a variety of illnesses and injuries is good, even remarkable, but we can and must do even better," says lead author Dr. Christopher Murray. "The huge increase in collective action and funding given to the major infectious diseases such as diarrhea, measles, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria has had a real impact."

However, the developed world is developing some new problems, according to Murray, the professor of global health at the University of Washington. "This study shows that some major chronic diseases have been largely neglected but are rising in importance, particularly drug disorders, liver cirrhosis, diabetes and chronic kidney disease."

Since 1990, liver cancer caused by hepatitis C increased by 125 percent, drug-related health problems by 63 percent and chronic kidney disease by 37 percent.

"Life expectancy will keep increasing but at a slower pace in the coming decades," says Maurice Giroud, professor in neurology at the University Hospital of Dijon. "But we can already predict that one in two children who are born today will be a centenarian." **ELODIE NOEL**

We're not just staying young at heart. / PHOTODISC

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Self-storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart to satisfy a lien on January 6, 2015 at approx.10am at Cubesmart www.storagetreasures.com:

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How to pick which colleges to apply to

Applications. Now's the time to be selective.

If you or someone you know is a high school senior (or the parent of a senior) you've heard the horror stories — students applying to 10 or more schools and planning dozens of visits in the hopes of getting into at least one.

One admissions official says everyone should take a deep breath and rethink their strategy. "More applications don't necessarily mean better odds," says Bob McCaig, vice president for enrollment management at Monmouth University. "The common American family is probably thinking, 'Oh, my gosh, my student isn't applying to 12 schools, should he be?' and hearing those stories feeds the frenzy."

Instead of applying to every school out there, McCaig suggests that students and their families try to be a bit more strategic about how they go about the selection process. He shares these suggestions on how to have a (relatively) stress-free experience.

Start as early as you can

"If you are a junior, you should start doing online and physical visits," advises McCaig. "Start talking to teachers, counselors and friends and use that summer to start doing visits."

Think about what you want

As you start to do your visits, start asking yourself about your interests. How big of a school are you looking for? Do you want to go to a public, private or faith-based college? How far do you want to be from your hometown?

Consider work /life balance

"Look at the academic nature of the school," says McCaig. "Does it fit your range of interests?" It's also important to consider if you'd be happy if you eventually decide to switch majors.

Be realistic about your chances

Look at the average SAT and ACT scores for each of the schools you are applying to. Do you fit that range? "If the average score is 400 points higher than your score, that's not a stretch, that's a waste of time," McCaig points out.

College. A new pilot program between Penn State and Philly's Northeastern High School

The students will also have the chance to visit the campuses on an annual bus trip. / MOODBOARD RF

The details

Among the benefits offered to Northeast students through the initiative include:

- An annual panel discussion on college readiness
- A financial aid event that will allow families to review aid packages
- Bus trips each spring to the Abington and State College campuses for interested juniors and seniors

Penn State is making it easier for students from Philadelphia's largest high school to enroll there.

Since 2011, the university has been working with Northeast High School to help students make their way to campus. As a result, the number of Northeast students who have applied to the school has grown by a third — with 18 percent gaining admission.

Last week, Penn State unveiled the new Raise Scholarships, a pilot program that helps Northeast students accumulate up to $16,000 toward Penn State tuition. Students who are eligible must meet criteria set by the university, which said it would consider things like grades in core coursework, overall improvement in grade point average and enrollment in honors, advanced placement or international baccalaureate courses.

"We knew that this was a great opportunity to provide direct help to students who want to go to Penn State. Penn State brought their abilities, persistence and support to the table," said Northeast's principal Sharon McCloskey in a statement. "But we also realized that this would reinforce and build on the going-to-college culture at Northeast." LAKSHMI GANDHI

Think you'd be happy at the University of Michigan? Send in an application! / GETTY IMAGES

Tip

Apply to schools that you like

Most important of all, eliminate schools from your list that you know you'll be miserable at. "Students should only apply to places they would be happy at," McCaig reminds us.

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lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

Environment

The scientists will be working with the U.S. Forest Service at the Parks Department. / DIGITAL VISION

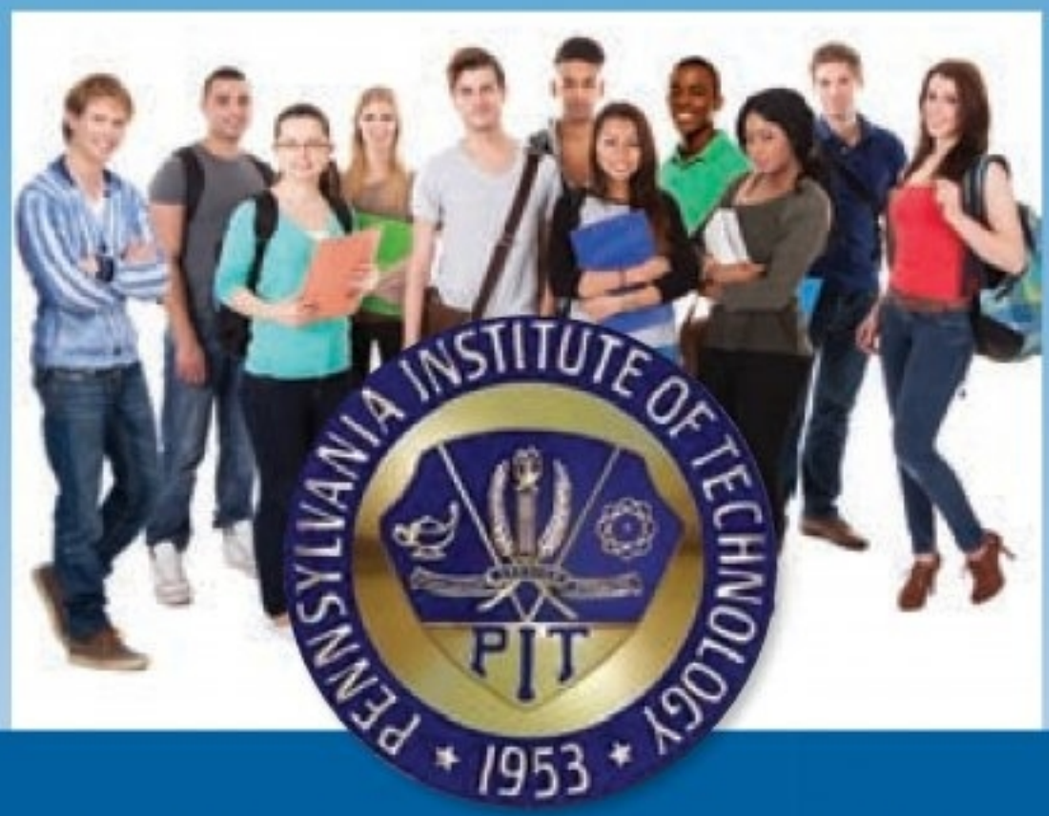
A new project for Drexel scientists

Alley Pond Park may be the second largest park in Queens, New York, but it is one of the first urban forests in the network to be wired with Smart Forest technology.

Scientists from Drexel University are lending a hand by aiding the U.S. Forest Service and NYC Parks and Recreation collect data ranging from precipitation, air and soil temperature, phenology and solar radiation. They will be able to monitor ecological change over temporal and special gradients simply by installing environmental sensors and wireless communication, similar to several other '"experimental forests" across the nation.

"These partnerships help us bring Forest Service science and discovery to the city," Michael T. Rain, director of the Northern Research Station and Forest Products Laboratory, says. "With our partners we are ... enabling communities to better manage the 138 million acres of urban forest that grace and bring vibrancy to our cities and towns across America."

Alley Pond Park is considered to be one of New York City's last "old growth forests." Thus, regulating what's happening at this location will serve as a measuring stick reference as attempts are made to restore other natural areas. MOLLY CONGDON



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HOW TO MARKET YOURSELF BETWEEN GIGS

Most of us have been unemployed at some point for one reason or another. It's normal for self-esteem to plummet when you're between jobs. Maybe there were budget cuts and your position was abruptly eliminated. Whatever the situation, there are several ways to strategize marketing efforts when you've left a job but don't have a new one lined up.

LinkedIn

Update your LinkedIn profile to highlight your skills but do not feel the urge to update your title to "consultant" or "professional seeking full-time work." Recruiting is a lot like dating, and although you want to get the word out, employers want to know you're a hot commodity.

Changing your title to something generic equates to sitting on the bench waiting to be asked to dance, even when you have a lot to offer. Ramp up your profile with skills and experience and leverage the summary section to include keywords about your industry and/or experiences that prospective employers prize.

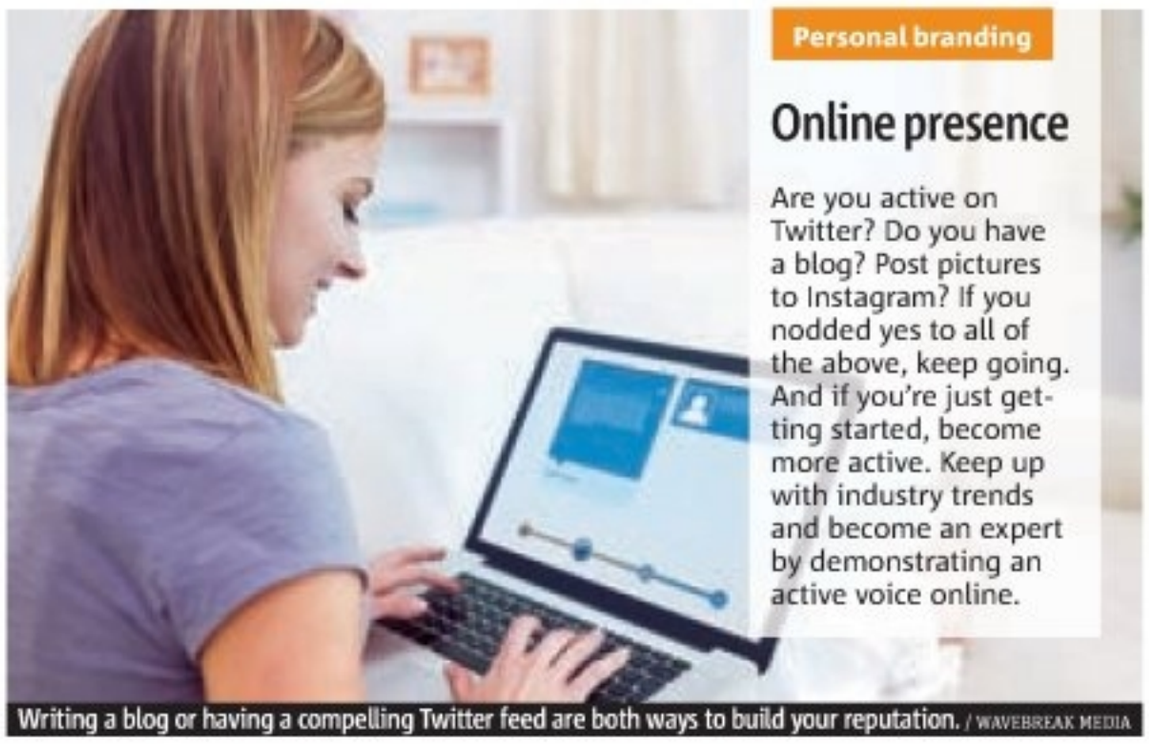
Elevator pitch

What is your mission statement? What do you want to do? What are your strengths? Nail it succinctly with confidence and bravado. Tweak your pitch — repeatedly and authentically state it to make it your own.

Business cards

Even if you don't have a job, you are still out there making connections. Get simple cards created as a way to easily give out your contact information. You don't have to break the bank but ensure they include the essentials: your name, email, phone number and Twitter handle (if you have a professional feed). Do you have a mission statement or a portfolio website? Feel free to include those as well.

If you're in finance, going for a conservative black and white card is prudent. But if you work in a creative field like graphics, feel free to include a sample design on the back. It's an easy way to stand out from the crowd, especially when your contact finds your card weeks later.



Writing a blog or having a compelling Twitter feed are both ways to build your reputation. / WAVEBREAK MEDIA

Personal branding

Online presence

Are you active on Twitter? Do you have a blog? Post pictures to Instagram? If you nodded yes to all of the above, keep going. And if you're just getting started, become more active. Keep up with industry trends and become an expert by demonstrating an active voice online.

Inside HR

VICKI SALEMI

Vicki Salemi is a career and human resources expert and consultant with 16-plus years of hands-on management experience. She's a public speaker, coach, the author of "Big Career in the Big City" and on-air host of "Score That Job."

Fill your time positively

During an interview six months from now, a hiring manager will ask how you spent your time. Marketing is important but so is taking care of yourself. Surround yourself with positive people, read books about success and stay physically and mentally healthy. While branding tools are effective, another two are equally important: your smile and demeanor.

PGW

The Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) is the largest municipally-owned gas utility in the nation, supplying gas service in the City of Philadelphia to over 500,000 customers.
PGW is looking for: Service Technicians/HVAC

This is a full-time (40 hours/week) union-covered position with a starting salary of $13.41 an hour.

Qualifications

- High School Diploma or GED, valid PA driver's license and "clean" driving record.
- A mechanical or construction background as a pipe fitter, plumber's helper or similar work experience, if in the gas/utilities industry this is a plus
- Experience in providing residential customer service (e.g., carpentry, cable technicians; plumber's helpers) or similar work
- Ability to work in inclement weather on any assigned shift including weekends, holidays

Overview

Service Technician will accompany skilled service personnel in designated areas and work rotating shifts under variable job conditions on a customer's premise. Will provide physical help as needed on service work and street leak relief, act as contact person for delivery service between outlying stations, and deliver parts and materials to various locations. This position requires a considerable amount of both physical and mental effort; activities and duties may have a direct bearing on the safety of the public.

Residency

Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) requires new employees to live within the city/county of Philadelphia for the duration of their employment with the company. If a non-resident at time of hire, must relocate within 12 months.

To Apply

Complete an online application for Service Technician-HVAC/Field Service Helper at www.pgworks.com

Make your move to PGW APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.PGWORKS.COM PGW is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer

Career track. What to ask yourself before making a career change

If going into the office every day leaves you less than thrilled, you're not alone. In fact, Gallup's 2013 State of the American Workplace study found that 70 percent of those polled described themselves as disengaged at work. Read on for the telltale signs that it might be time to say so long to your nine-to-five gig.

Is it time to leave yet? / PIXLAND

1 Going to work feels like a chore. If you hate your job, it might be because it isn't the best fit for your skills and passion. Many freelancers are nudged into self-employment in much the same way.

"I wasn't satisfied with my content job at an Internet company, and I felt like my work was holding me back from accomplishing my main personal goal — to become a professional, full-time writer," says Stefan A. Slater, a 26-year-old freelance writer.

Leaving the security of a full-time job can be scary, but you have to ask yourself: Am I doing the job I always dreamed of doing?

2 You daydream about making your own work schedule. "At my last job, I felt a lot of pressure to be in the office, even though I could do my work from the bottom of the sea if necessary," says Vanessa McGrady, who just left a full-time office job for the freelance life. She currently writes a personal finance column for Forbes.com.

What stability?

Your job isn't safe

Those of us with serious job security may find the prospect of self-employment a bit scary. For Dan Spalding, a PR consultant who left his nine-to-five as a corporate communications director in 2009, rumors of impending layoffs were what pushed him to go his own way.

3 You're looking for a challenge. If you're contemplating quitting your job to work for yourself, McGrady suggests lining up your prospects beforehand. Reach out to potential contacts on LinkedIn and other networks.

Yes, the consulting route can sometimes feel unpredictable. But knowing that this is your livelihood definitely revs up the motivation in a way that no other job does.

MARIANNE HAYES

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Practicality and common sense must be parts of your game plan. Frivolous spending will not buy happiness.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Keep a close watch on your finances. This is not a good time to lend or borrow money. You will regret it if you allow anyone to take advantage of you.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. It's OK to take part in festivities, but remember to keep your aspirations in mind. It's possible that you will meet someone who could give your career a boost.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. An interesting offer will come with delays. Keep all of the details on hand so you can act when the timing is right.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Preparation when applied to an innovative idea will prove profitable. Brush up on marketing and sales techniques.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. The hectic pace that accompanies the end of the year will take its toll on your health. Take some time for personal pleasures and pampering.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You will run yourself ragged trying to find the perfect gift. Giving your time is more important than anything you could buy.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Get together with friends to enjoy the spirit of the season. When planning group events, remember to include elderly relatives whom you don't see often.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You and a loved one are likely to feel stressed and emotional. Devote time for just the two of you to reconnect and reflect.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Your home environment will not be relaxing today. Getting out will provide some time away from the tension.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Plan to have fun with friends. Your busy schedule must not stop you from taking part in activities.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You will be considered for a new opportunity in the new year. Give the matter a lot of thought. It will be the challenge you have been looking for.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5			4			3		2
	8		1	3	9			5
	4		2					
	9	1	8			2		
		5			6	9	8	
					8		3	
2			6	4	1		5	
8		9			3			4

6							4	
	2	1						
4	9		6	1	5		7	
9			1	5	6			
	7			4			5	
			8	3	7			1
	5		7	9	3		1	4
						3	6	
	1							5

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Best of 2014

Through the holidays, Metro takes a look at the issues important to letter writers in 2014. Whether it was gun violence, domestic violence, world conflicts — or cyclists! — Metro readers had a lot to say. Here are some excerpts:

Sexism, guns and violence

While I can't imagine the pain and suffering of the victims' families, I have to say there is a bigger issue than gun laws. The fact remains that at the end of the day, we live in a culture where a woman saying NO is the cause of violence and death.

TOVA WEISBLATT (APRIL 29)

Letter writer Murray Calhoun thinks weapons capable of shooting hundreds of rounds per minute should be kept out of the hands of citizens. He's not alone. That's why the federal government banned them in 1934. The perpetrators of all the mass shootings that have occurred in the last few years all utilized semiautomatic weapons.

KACY KNIGHT (JUNE 3)

I get annoyed when a so-called responsible gun owner whines that gun control means taking guns away from law-abiding, responsible gun owners. If responsible gun owners were actually responsible, there would be no incidents of children getting access to a gun.

KEVIN VALENTINE, (JULY 1)

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**

Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

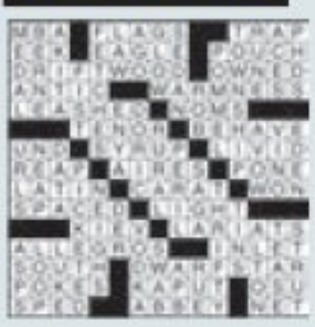
Across

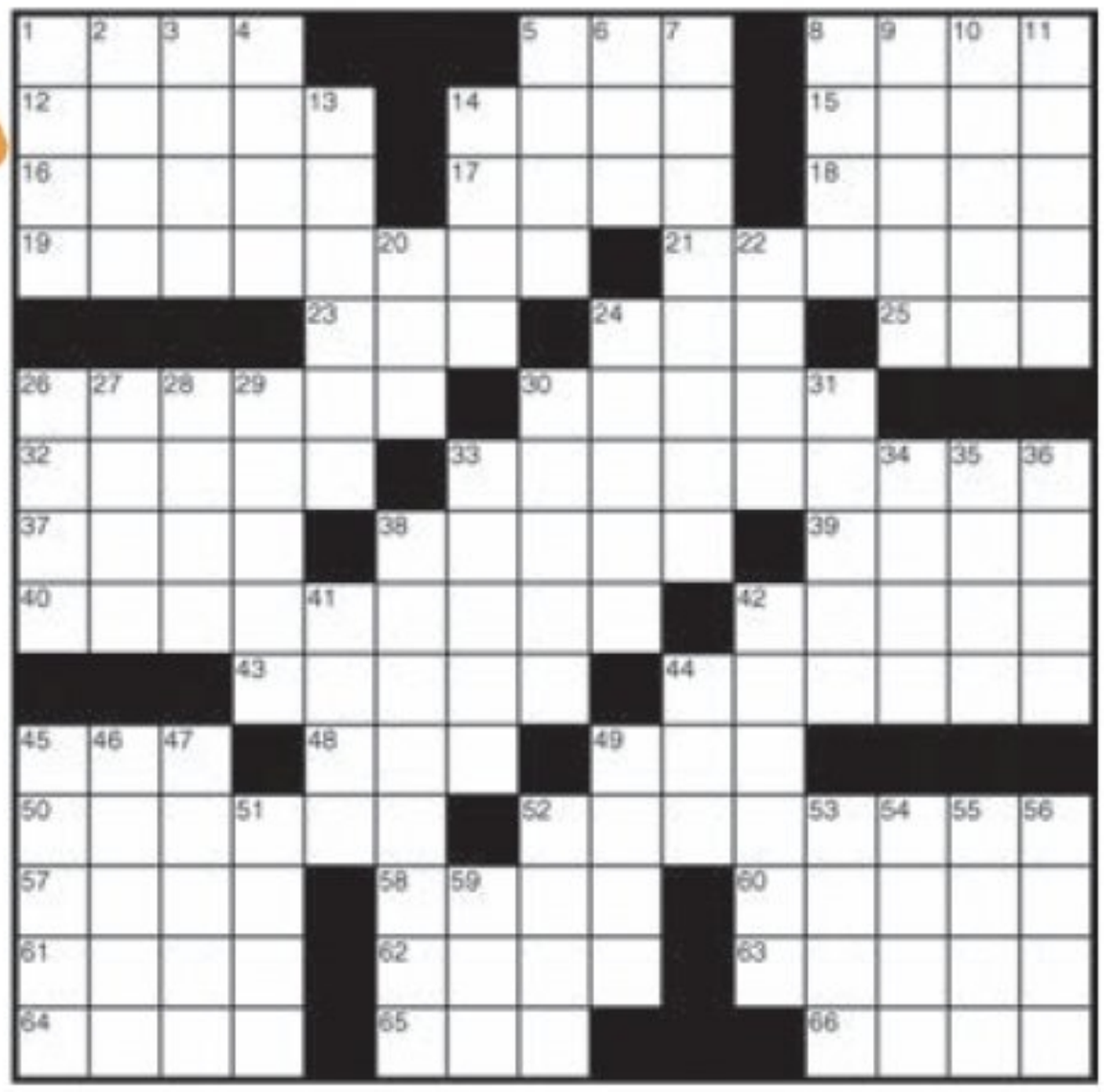
1 Ringlet
5 Telepathy
8 Racing circuits
12 Hunter constellation
14 Chess win
15 — Bator
16 New Zealand native
17 Made the most of
18 Ms. Riefenstahl
19 Cockpit reading
21 Hardened to
23 Lb. and oz.
24 — -fi flick
25 Half a dangerous fly
26 Nova —
30 Keaton or Sawyer
32 Be envious
33 Folk healer
37 Mournful wail
38 Monica of tennis
39 Smelled the coffee
40 Hideouts (hyph.)
42 Call for takeout (hyph.)
43 Bellows
44 Tree nymphs
45 Drag along
48 Prefix for "classic"
49 Hive dweller
50 "I" trouble?
52 Hip-length garments (2 wds.)
57 Mendicant's shout
58 Campus sports gp.
60 Parish donation
61 Ice floe dweller
62 They may be read
63 Pleasure boat
64 Ferber of "Giant"
65 Woof
66 Soot

Down

1 Comet envelope
2 River in Russia
3 Disturbance
4 Loughlin or Petty
5 Proficiency
6 Sault — Marie
7 Three-wheeled taxis
8 Humdinger
9 Storm warning
10 Glazier's squares
11 Catty
13 Scatterbrain
14 Flood residues
20 Ms. Hagen
22 1492 caravel
24 Becomes a dad
26 Accident reminder
27 Boulder's st.
28 Almond-shaped
29 Fractious
30 Editor's marks
31 Broncos great John —
33 Common greeting
34 Pinch
35 Warehouse pallet
36 Folding money
38 Earnestly
41 Scarce as -- teeth
42 Constructs
44 "— Rosenkavalier"
45 Pick on
46 Gave the eye
47 Amazon, e.g.
49 Pasture sounds
51 Cuba, to Castro
52 Yokums' creator
53 Fixes a squeak
54 Fermi split it
55 A grand
56 Equinox mo.
59 KGB counterpart

Weekend's answer





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3

SPORTS

Jayhawks vs. Owls

Temple to host top 10 team

The 7-4 Owls will need every break they can get Monday at 7 p.m. when they host No. 10 Kansas at the Wells Fargo Center. Temple has dropped its last seven games against top 10 teams and went without a win against them for the first time in six seasons last year.

The Eagles will start thinking about 2015 today. / GETTY IMAGES

Eagles ousted from playoff contention

NFL. The Eagles' loss to Washington on Saturday paired with the Cowboys win Sunday ended Philly's playoff hopes.

After the Eagles committed 13 penalties, missed two easy field goals and failed to defeat last-place Washington Saturday afternoon, there wasn't much hope left for a playoff berth.

But there was a chance. Two Dallas losses and a win over New York next week would give Philly a miracle boost to an NFC East crown. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, it wasn't to be, as the Cowboys demolished the Colts 42-7 Sunday night, effectively ending the Eagles' season.

After three straight losses, it was a long time coming as several players stepped up to take the blame for the 27-24 defeat.

"It stinks," Eagles kicker Cody Parkey, who missed field goals from 34 and 46 yards, said. "I missed kicks and we lost the game."

"We invented ways to lose this game," safety Malcolm Jenkins said. "We did so many things to give it away."

Vinny Curry, the defensive lineman who committed a key penalty said, "You can blame me."

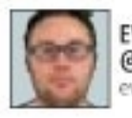
The Cowboys win their first division title since 2009 and the Eagles will play a meaningless game Sunday vs. the Giants.

"We've got one game left," Kelly said prior to Dallas' win. "We're going to go get ready, get focused on the New York Giants. There are a lot of other things that have to happen besides that that we have no control over."

By the numbers

35

Eagles' giveaways this season, more than two per game through 15 games.



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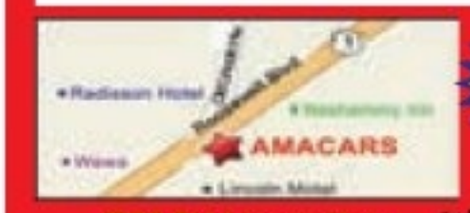

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NFL playoff landscape taking shape

NFL. The Cowboys clinched a division title while the Patriots clinched a first-round bye Sunday afternoon.

The Eagles broke many hearts Saturday, but around the league the drama is just beginning to mount.

Several Week 17 showdowns will determine division winners while playoff seeding has yet to be determined despite a full weekend of high-octane action.

Cowboys 42, Colts 7
The Cowboys won the NFC East with an exclamation point, eliminating the Eagles with their three-phase explosion over the Colts, who had already clinched a playoff spot and didn't have much to play for. Tony Romo was near perfect, completing 18 of 20 passes for 218 yards before being benched with Dallas ahead by five touchdowns. The Cowboys are still seeking home-field advantage with the Redskins on the docket next week.

Panthers 17, Browns 13
Cam Newton lifted the Panthers in his first game since his car accident and has Carolina in control of their own destiny in the NFC South with a half-game lead over the Falcons and Saints heading into Week 17. Newton threw for 201 yards and ran for 63 more and was helped by running back Jonathan Stewart, who picked up 122 on the ground. Carolina will face Atlanta for the NFC South crown next week.

Falcons 30, Saints 14
The Falcons stay within a half game of the division lead with their convincing win over New Orleans. Each team is 6-9 (trailing the Panthers) but only the Falcons remain alive for a playoff berth in the NFC South. In Sunday's win, Julio Jones returned from injury to catch seven passes for 107 yards as Matt Ryan (322 yards, 1 TD) outplayed Drew Brees (313 yards, 1 TD, 2 INT).

Packers 20, Buccaneers 3
Eddie Lacy and Aaron Rodgers teamed up to lift the Packers to a bounce-back 11th win Sunday, inching them closer to an NFC North crown. The win assured Green Bay at least a wild card berth, with Rodgers throwing for 318 yards and a score and Lacy running for 99 yards and a score. The Packers' defense also starred, holding Tampa Bay to just 109 yards of offense.

Steelers 20, Chiefs 12
The Steelers earned a playoff berth with their win against Andy Reid's Chiefs on Sunday and set up a showdown for the AFC North crown next week against Cincinnati. The Pittsburgh defense sacked Alex Smith (who threw for a season high 311 yards) a season-high six times in the win.

Patriots 17, Jets 16
The Patriots clinched a first-round bye Sunday by dismissing Rex Ryan and the Jets. New York held a 10-7 lead at halftime and a 13-7 lead late in the third quarter, but a field goal by Pats kicker Stephen Gostkowski and a 1-yard TD plunge by Jonas Gray allowed New England to grab the narrow win.

The Cowboys won the NFC East title Sunday with a statement win over Indianapolis. / GETTY IMAGES

Lions 20, Bears 14
Joique Bell's 17-yard touchdown run with 7:15 to go in the fourth quarter gave Detroit a 17-14 lead and the Lions never relinquished it. The Lions ran for 138 yards as a team with Bell (74 yards) and Reggie Bush (54 yards) doing the majority of the ground work.

Dolphins 37, Vikings 35
The Dolphins were down by 14 points early and by a touchdown late but Damien Williams' three-yard TD grab from Ryan Tannehill and rookie Terrence Fede's rare blocked punt for a safety with 41 seconds left gave Miami the come-from-behind win.

Texans 25, Ravens 13
Arian Foster — of all people — had a better day throwing the football than Joe Flacco as the Texans moved to 8-7 on the year while the Ravens fell to 9-6.

Giants 37, Rams 27
With not much to play for the Giants are on a tear to end the regular season. Their most recent win against the Rams shows a bright future, as Eli Manning erupted for 391 yards and three touchdowns and rookie of the year candidate Odell Beckham Jr. caught 8 passes for 148 yards and two scores.

Raiders 26, Bills 24
The Raiders held on against the Bills Sunday, using a clutch fourth-quarter Derek Carr touchdown pass as insurance against a last-minute Bills touchdown drive and failed onside kick.

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Villanova hoops has depth, experience of true contender

NCAA. The Wildcats mounted an impressive comeback this weekend to remain unbeaten.

Villanova is playing great basketball as the Big East conference schedule nears. / GETTY IMAGES

There's a simple reason why Jay Wright's 11-0 Wildcats were able to outlast feisty Syracuse in overtime this past weekend: experience. For Jim Boeheim's Orange, who probably deserved a better fate in Saturday's 82-77 decision, it was relatively virgin territory.

This should take nothing from Villanova's win at a packed Wells Fargo Center. It was really a game the Wildcats had no business winning, trailing 41-26 late in the first half.

But they kept on pushing, convinced something good would happen. It did, as Josh Hart drained a 3-pointer, and Nova's defense forced a crucial turnover, leading to JayVaughn Pinkston's tying layup with 4.2 seconds left to force overtime.

The seventh-ranked Wildcats took over from there, shooting 11 for 12 from the line to put it away.

"Our guys have a maturity and basketball IQ about them that is really unique," Wright said. "They have a great feel for what's needed at the time and great unselfishness. All these guys played in that game last year and now they're a year older."

The transformation started in the locker room at halftime, where with the Wildcats down 43-31. Seniors Pinkston and Darrun Hilliard let their teammates know in no uncertain terms their performance was unacceptable.

Quoted

"We needed to step up as leaders. People probably counted us out of the game when we were down, but we had a sense of urgency." JayVaughn Pinkston

"I can't really say what we said," laughed Pinkston, who led the way with 25 points and 10 rebounds, followed by Hilliard's 23 and Hart's 21. "Basically, 'Just pick it up.'"

Somehow that got them through in a game reminiscent of those memorable Big East wars of days past which Wright says can only bode well down the line.

"We don't thank our rivals enough," Wright said. "When Syracuse comes in here this place rocks. I had three former players all say the same thing. 'Syracuse — Villanova, no matter who plays here, no matter who coaches here, it's the same thing.' I think we have to really appreciate that. This is as important a game to us as any Big East game. It's Northeast basketball. It's what the [old] Big East was."

Syracuse leads the series 38-34. Wright is now 12-9 vs. Boeheim.

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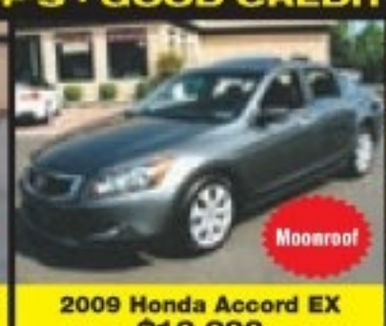

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$14,900

2008 Infiniti M35x AWD
$13,900

2008 Mazda CX-9 Touring
$12,900

2011 Lexus ES 350
$23,900

2013 Nissan Altima 2.5 S
$14,900

2008 Cadillac CTS AWD
$15,900

2011 Nissan Murano SL
$18,900

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Qualified participants must:
- Be age 18 to 70
- Take an antidepressant daily
- Currently suffer from symptoms of depression

Qualified participants receive:
- All study-related exams and study medication or placebo at no cost
- Up to $550 in compensation for time and travel

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For more information, call toll-free **1.877.438.3923** or visit PRAHS.com

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Qualified participants may receive
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- All study related evaluations and medication at no cost.
- Compensation from $700 to $4,000 for those who qualify

The persons depicted are models used only for illustrative purposes.

PRAHEALTHSCIENCES

For more information, call toll-free **1.866.680.6672** or visit PRAHS.com

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